

ANNUAL REPORT


OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

Urban District Council of Buckingham.

1909.



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TO THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
BUCKINGHAM.

HAMILTON,

BUCKINGHAM,

February, 1910.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Ninth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for your District.

*Estimated
Population.*

I have estimated the population to be 3170 to the middle of 1909.

Births.

There were 82 births registered during the year—43 boys, 39 girls. Four of the births were illegitimate.

Birth-rate.

The birth-rate is 25·8 per 1000, an improvement on 1908.

Deaths.

These have been unusually heavy, the number being 74. Of this number, however, 15 were of non-residents, bringing the nett deaths to 59; 16 occurred in the Workhouse, 1 in the Isolation Hospital, and 6 in the Nursing Home. An inquest was held in respect of 4 deaths—2 cases of suicide; in one the verdict returned was “Death from natural causes,” and in the other, “Death from shock and exhaustion after exposure.” All the deaths were certified. The causes were as follows:—Scarlet Fever 1, Diphtheria 1, Phthisis 1, other Tuberculous Diseases 1, Cancer 6, Bronchitis and Pneumonia 8, Pleurisy 1, Alcoholism 2, Premature Births 4, Heart Diseases 12, and all other causes 20.

Death-rate.

The gross death-rate is 23·3 per 1000, a high rate, but deducting the deaths of non-residents, the nett rate is 18·6 per 1000, one which compares unfavourably with the average for the preceeding eight years, 13·6 per 1000.

*Infantile
Mortality.*

There were 10 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving a rate of 121·9 per 1000 births registered; in the

previous eight years the highest number recorded was 11 in 1905, with a rate of 130·9 per 1000 births registered. Of the 10 deaths in 1909, 4 were the result of premature birth, 1 of tuberculous peritonitis, 1 of meningitis (not tuberculous), 1 of convulsions, 2 of bronchitis, and 1 of pneumonia. The Notification of Birth's Act, 1907, has not been adopted in the District, and no Health Visitor has been appointed. The District, however, is well served by the Buckingham and District Nursing Association, whose nurses are at all times available to give much useful advice to mothers as to the rational treatment of their offspring, and as regards proper feeding and general care.

*Infectious
Diseases.*

Twenty-seven cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year, an increase of 19 over those during 1908. Fifteen of these cases were scarlet fever, and all, with one exception, were treated at the Isolation Hospital; 1 case terminated fatally. The source of infection was not traced in the outbreak early in the year, but in the series of cases notified in October the source of infection was traced to the Radcliffe Infirmary at Oxford, the first case of the series having been an inmate of that institution when scarlet fever broke out in the ward and the child was sent home to Buckingham. No notification of the child having been in contact with scarlet fever was sent to me from the authorities at the Radcliffe Infirmary, but on writing to the House Surgeon there I received a reply from him confirming the facts set out above. Nine cases of diphtheria were notified, all of which were treated in their own homes; one of them ended fatally. One case of erysipelas and one of puerperal fever were notified; both recovered. One case of enteric fever was notified from the Nursing Home and made a satisfactory recovery; the source of infection was not traced, it did not arise in the Home, the patient being admitted before the case was diagnosed to be enteric fever.

All cases of infectious disease are at once visited by me on notification. Where isolation is impracticable in the patient's house, advice is given to have the case

removed to the Isolation Hospital. One infectious disease only can be treated there at a time ; there is accommodation for 8 cases and one nurse. Should two infectious diseases be prevalent in the District at the same time, arrangements could doubtless be made to transform the Mission Room at Church End into a temporary hospital as was done in 1904 during an epidemic of scarlet fever when the Isolation Hospital was full. As soon as a case of infectious disease is removed to the Isolation Hospital, or in the event of a case treated at home, as soon as danger of infection from the patient is at an end, thorough disinfection of the premises is carried out.

*Water
Supply.*

The supply from the deep borings at Maids Moreton continues to be of good quality and plentiful, there is practically no fear of the supply becoming contaminated. The supply at Gawcott is sufficient and of good quality. Other parts of the District are supplied from wells.

*Public
Health.
Tuberculosis
Regulations.*

No notification of tuberculosis has been received from Poor Law Medical Officers in the District. There is no other form of compulsory or voluntary notification of tuberculous disease in vogue in the District. When death from tuberculous disease occurs, disinfection of the premises is carried out. The issuing of a uniform leaflet of instructions to sufferers from tuberculous disease is under consideration by the County Medical Officer of Health.

Milk Supply

The milk produced in the District is of a rich quality, and generally wholesome. The dairies and milk shops are generally clean and well looked after. There is much improvement in the condition of the cowsheds, these being better drained, ventilated, and kept clean. The cowyards, however, might with advantage be kept cleaner. All the milk sellers are registered.

Other Foods.

No carcasses or parts of carcasses have been condemned for tuberculosis.

*Sewerage
and
Drainage.*

During the year a report on Excrement Disposal in the town was sent to the Local Government Board as certain premises were not accommodated with water closets, and in

consequence unconnected with the sewerage system. The soil from these premises, or those which had pail closets, was collected by the night soil cart. This collection was a nuisance, and complaints were frequent. In all cases where possible, with two exceptions, water closets have been substituted. In the case of one exception the house has been closed and is no longer to be used as a dwelling. In the case of the second, a scheme is on foot for the demolition of the premises known as Barton's Hospital and the re-erection of the same, and until this is done, each dwelling as it becomes vacant is not to be re-inhabited. In two instances it was found impossible to connect with the sewer, as the level of the latter is above that of the premises.

The disposal of sewerage is satisfactorily conducted at the Sewerage Farm.

In Gawcott, Lenborough and Bourton, pail closets are, as a general rule, in use, the soil being dug into the ground of the gardens, allotments, etc.

*Physical
Features
of District.*

The town of Buckingham is situated in a valley on the banks of the Ouse, which river borders it on the west, south and east; the other parts of the District are situated on the hills around. The subsoil varies in different parts and consists chiefly of the Oxford blue clay, oolitic rock and gravel.

*Pollution of
Streams and
River.*

By the sewerage scheme of Buckingham and the use of pail closets in other parts of the District, the pollution of the river Ouse and its tributaries is reduced to a minimum.

*Occupation
of People.*

The inhabitants are chiefly employed in agriculture, at the Milk Factory, and in the various occupations which pertain in a country town of the kind.

*Disposal of
House refuse*

House refuse is removed by the public scavenging carts twice weekly, and carted to the Sewerage Farm where it is then ploughed into the ground.

Schools.

The sanitary condition of the Public Elementary Schools is satisfactory. Water is supplied from the town mains. The children are inspected by the County Education Medical Officer. The teachers, however, inform the Medical Officer of

Health if they suspect any child to be suffering from infectious disease, or if a child is verminous. In the event of a teacher notifying a suspicious case of illness, or in the event of an infectious disease breaking out, the Medical Officer of Health visits the schools and personally inspects the children and excludes all contacts or suspicious cases.

Housing.

Eleven new houses have been erected during the year.

An Enquiry was held before Edgar Dudley, Esq., on November 26th, 1909, your Council having applied to the Local Government Board for the sanction of a loan for the building of two cottages on the site occupied by two delapidated cottages at the Town Yard.

There is still vast room for improvement in the housing of the working classes.

Under the Housing and Town Planning Bill your Council will have greatly increased powers to deal with this burning question. It will also greatly increase the duties and responsibilities placed upon the Sanitary Inspector and Medical Officer of Health.

Van Dwellings.

The attention of the Sanitary Authority was directed to a nuisance caused by the presence of van dwellings in the yard of the Cross Keys. A large heap of offensive manure was stacked between one of these vans and a stable wall. The nuisance was abated on representations being made to the Aylesbury Brewery Company. An agreement has now been made with this Company that for the future a van dwelling shall only be permitted to stay in the yard for one night when passing through the town.

Vaccination.

Attention must once more be drawn to this question. Compulsory vaccination has become a dead letter. During the year 45 exemptions were granted to parents in the District—a rate of 54 per cent. of births registered. My reports of 1907 and 1908 have referred to this matter, pointing out the grave risk run by the community by having such a large number of persons among it unprotected from the ravages of smallpox.

Before certificates of exemption are granted, applicants should be made to understand the risk they are asking their offspring to run by not having them vaccinated.

*Slaughter
Houses and
Bakehouses.*

These have been inspected from time to time, and are found to be clean.

Inspections.

Many inspections have from time to time been made and notices as to defects and nuisances served where necessary, and the requisite work carried out, as follows :—

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| New Drains | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| Dangerous Structures | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Stopped and Defective Closets and Privies | ... | | | | 11 |
| Stopped Defective Drains | ... | ... | ... | | 27 |
| Defective Roofs | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Accumulations of Manure, etc. | | | ... | ... | 5 |
| For Whitewashing, Cleaning, etc. | | | ... | ... | 17 |
| Filthy Pigstyes | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Insufficient Ash Bins | ... | ... | ... | ... | 47 |
| Insufficient Closet Accommodation | ... | | ... | ... | 47 |

I have to thank your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. James Smith, for his help and unfailing courtesy,

And remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

VINCENT HOWARD.

TABLE I. Vital Statistics for the Whole District during 1909 and Previous Years.

| YEAR. | Population esti- mated to Middle of each Year. | BIRTHS. | | DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE. | | TOTAL DEATHS AT ALL AGES. | | TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS IN THE DISTRICT. | Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institu- tions in the District. | Deaths of residents registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District. | NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT | |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------|-------|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------|--|--|---|--|-------|
| | | Num- ber. | Rate. | Num- ber. | Rate per 1,000 Births registered. | Num- ber. | Rate. | | | | Num- ber. | Rate. |
| 1901 | 3151 | 65 | 20.9 | 6 | 90.7 | 56 | 17.7 | 13 | 5 | 1 | 52 | 16.8 |
| 1902 | 3125 | 71 | 22.72 | 6 | 84.5 | 51 | 16.32 | 17 | 9 | 0 | 42 | 13.4 |
| 1903 | 3157 | 90 | 28.8 | 8 | 88.8 | 65 | 20.6 | 15 | 9 | 1 | 57 | 14.9 |
| 1904 | 3182 | 76 | 23.8 | 7 | 92.1 | 52 | 16.32 | 12 | 7 | 0 | 45 | 14.1 |
| 1905 | 3155 | 84 | 26.6 | 11 | 130.9 | 61 | 19.29 | 13 | 8 | 0 | 53 | 16.7 |
| 1906 | 3178 | 90 | 28.3 | 6 | 66.6 | 52 | 16.3 | 15 | 11 | 0 | 41 | 12.9 |
| 1907 | 3172 | 72 | 22.7 | 6 | 83.3 | 54 | 17.02 | 12 | 7 | 0 | 47 | 14.8 |
| 1908 | 3187 | 60 | 18.8 | 3 | 50 | 23 | 7.2 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 18 | 5.6 |
| Averages for years 1901-1908 | 3169 | 76 | 24.07 | 6.4 | 86.2 | 51.7 | 16.8 | 12.8 | 7.6 | .025 | 44.3 | 13.6 |
| 1909 | 3170 | 82 | 25.8 | 10 | 121.9 | 74 | 23.3 | 24 | 15 | 0 | 59 | 18.6 |

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----------------|-------------------------------------|------|
| Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) | ... | 4,773a. 1r. 9p. | Total population at all ages ... | 3154 |
| | | | Number of Inhabited Houses ... | 805 |
| | | | Average number of persons per house | 3.9 |

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District. } Workhouse Infirmary. } Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the }
Nursing Home. } Stone Asylum.
Isolation Hospital. } District.

Buckingham Union Workhouse is within the District.

TABLE II.
Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1909 and previous years of the
Urban District of Buckingham.

| YEAR. | Population estimated to middle of each year. | Births Registered. | Deaths at all ages. | Deaths under 1 year. |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1901 | 3151 | 65 | 56 | 6 |
| 1902 | 3125 | 71 | 51 | 6 |
| 1903 | 3151 | 90 | 65 | 8 |
| 1904 | 3182 | 76 | 52 | 7 |
| 1905 | 3155 | 84 | 61 | 11 |
| 1906 | 3178 | 90 | 52 | 6 |
| 1907 | 3172 | 72 | 54 | 6 |
| 1908 | 3117 | 60 | 23 | 3 |
| Averages of years 1899 to 1908. | | | | |
| 1909 | 3170 | 82 | 74 | 10 |

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1909 in the Buckingham Urban District.

| NOTIFIABLE DISEASE. | CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT. | | | | | | | TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY. | | | NO OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY. | | | Total cases removed to Hospital. |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|--|----|----|---|----|----|----------------------------------|
| | At all Ages. | At all Ages—Years. | | | | | | 1. | 2. | 3. | 1. | 2. | 3. | |
| | | Under 1. | 1 to 5. | 5 to 15. | 15 to 25. | 25 to 65. | 65 and upwards. | | | | | | | |
| Small-pox ... | Nil | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cholera ... | " | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) | 9 | ... | 5 | 3 | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Erysipelas ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Scarlet Fever | 15 | ... | 6 | 4 | 5 | ... | | | | | | | | 14 |
| Typhus Fever | Nil | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Enteric Fever | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Relapsing Fever | Nil | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Continued Fever | " | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Puerperal Fever | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Plague ... | Nil | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Totals ... | 27 | | 11 | 7 | 8 | 1 | | | | | | | | 14 |

Isolation Hospital— { Buckingham Isolation Hospital, Total available beds, 8. Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 1.
Brackley Road.

TABLE IV.

Causes of and Ages at Death during year 1909 in the Urban District of Buckingham.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT. | | | | | | | DEATHS AT ALL AGES OF "RESIDENTS" BELONGING TO LOCALITIES, WHETHER OCCUR- RING IN OR BEYOND DISTRICT | | | DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OR NON-RESIDENTS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS IN DISTRICT. |
|--|--|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---|-----|-----|---|
| | All Ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 and under 5. | 5 and under 15. | 15 and under 25. | 25 and under 65. | 65 and upwards. | 1. | 2. | 3. | |
| Small-pox | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Measles | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Scarlet Fever | I | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | I |
| Whooping Cough | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) | I | ... | ... | I | ... | ... | ... | | | | |
| Croup | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fever { Typhus | | | | | | | | | | | |
| { Enteric | | | | | | | | | | | |
| { other continued | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Epidemic Influenza | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cholera | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Plague | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Diarrhœa | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Enteritis | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gastritis | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Puerperal Fever | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Erysipelas | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) | I | ... | ... | ... | ... | I | ... | | | | |
| Other Tuberculous Diseases | I | I | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | | |
| Cancer, malignant Disease | 6 | | ... | ... | ... | I | 5 | ... | ... | ... | I |
| Bronchitis | 2 | I | ... | ... | ... | ... | I | | | | |
| Pneumonia | 6 | I | I | ... | ... | I | 3 | | | | |
| Pleurisy | I | | ... | ... | ... | ... | I | | | | |
| Other diseases of Res- piratory organs | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Alcoholism | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cirrhosis of Liver } | 2 | | ... | ... | ... | I | I | | | | |
| Venereal Diseases | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Premature Birth | 4 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | | |
| Diseases and Accidents of Parturition | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Heart Diseases | 12 | | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 9 | ... | ... | ... | I |
| Accidents | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Suicides | 2 | | ... | ... | ... | 2 | | | | | |
| All other causes | 35 | 3 | ... | ... | 3 | 6 | 22 | ... | ... | ... | 2 I |
| All causes | 74 | 10 | I | I | 4 | 16 | 42 | | | | 24 |

TABLE V.

Infantile Mortality during 1910 in the Urban District of Buckingham.
Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under 1 Year of Age.

| CAUSE OF DEATH. | | | Under 1 Week. | 1-2 Weeks. | Total under 1 Month. | 1-2 Months. | 2-3 Months. | 4-5 Months. | 6-7 Months. | 10-11 Months. | Total Deaths under 1 Year. |
|---|---|--|------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| All Causes | { | Certified | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Uncertified | | | | | | | | | |
| i. Common Infectious Diseases. | { | Small-pox | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Chicken-pox | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Measles | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Scarlet Fever | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) | | | | | | | | | |
| ii. Diarrhœal Diseases. | { | Diarrhœa, all forms | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Enteritis, Muco- enteritis, Gastro- enteritis | | | | | | | | | |
| | { | Gastritis, Gastro- intestinal Catarrh | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| iii. Wasting Diseases. | { | Premature Birth | 3 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| | | Congenital Defects | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Injury at Birth | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Want of Breast- milk, Starvation | | | | | | | | | |
| | { | Atrophy Debility, Marasmus | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| iv. Tuberculous Diseases. | { | Tuberculous Men- ingitis | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Tuberculous Per- itonitis: Tabes | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| | | Mesenterica | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Other Tubercu- lous Diseases | | | | | | | | | |
| v. Other Causes. | { | Erysipelas | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Syphilis | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Rickets | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Meningitis (not Tuberculous) | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| | | Convulsions | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| | | Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 |
| | | Laryngitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| | | Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| | | Suffocation, overlying | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Other Causes | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 3 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 10 |

Population estimated to middle of 1919 ... 3170

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--------------|---|----|--------------------|---|----------------------|---|----|
| Births in the Year | { | legitimate | - | 78 | Deaths in the year | { | legitimate infants | - | 10 |
| | | illegitimate | - | 4 | | | illegitimate infants | - | 0 |
| Deaths from all Causes at all Ages ... | | | | | 10 | | | | |

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1909,
for the Urban District of Buckingham, on the administration
of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with
Factories, Workshops, Workplaces, and Homework.

1.—Inspection.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

| PREMISES. | Number of | | |
|---|-------------|------------------|---------------|
| | Inspection. | Written Notices. | Prosecutions. |
| Factories (including Factory Laundries) ... | 3 | | |
| Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ... | | | |
| Workplaces (other than outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report) | | | |
| Total | 3 | | |

2.—Defects Found.

| PARTICULARS. | Number of Defects. | | | Number of Prosecutions. | |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Found. | Remedied. | Referred to H.M. Inspector. | | |
| <i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i> | | | | | |
| Want of Cleanliness | } Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. | |
| Want of Ventilation | | | | | |
| Overcrowding | | | | | |
| Want of drainage of floors | | | | | |
| Other nuisances | | | | | |
| Sanitary accomodation { | | | | | insufficient |
| | | | | | unsuitable or defective |
| | not separate for sexes | | | | |
| <i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i> | | | | | |
| Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ... | } Nil. | | | | |
| Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100) | | | | | |
| Other offences (excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this report) | | | | | |
| Total | | | | | |

3.—Homework.

[illegible]

4.—Registered Workshops.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year :—

| | Number. |
|---|---------|
| Bakehouses | 6 |
| Builders | 4 |
| Engineering | 4 |
| Dressmaking and Millinery | 11 |
| Coachbuilding | 2 |
| Tailoring | 3 |
| Gas Working | 1 |
| Electric Lighting | 1 |
| Total number of workshops on Register ... | 32 |

5—Other Matters.

Matters notified to H.M. Inspectors of Factories :—

| | Class. | Number. |
|---|---|---------|
| Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133) | | Nil. |
| Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 5) | Notified by H.M. Inspector Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector | Nil. |
| Other | | Nil. |
| Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :— | | |
| Certificates granted during the year | | Nil. |
| In use at the end of the year | | 1 |